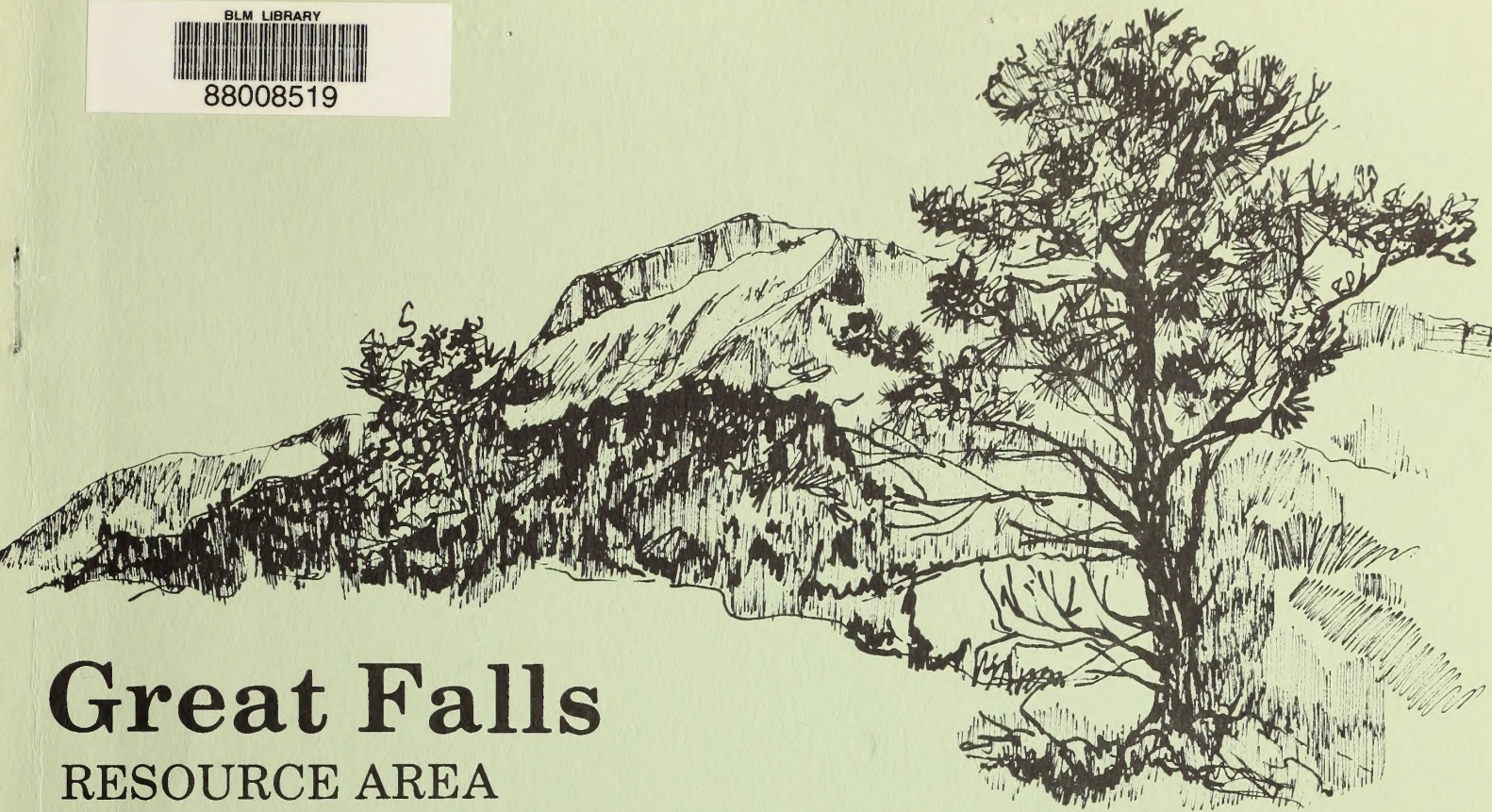


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# Great Falls

RESOURCE AREA

## Rangeland Program Summary

LEWISTOWN DISTRICT



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Management

APRIL 1985

Derived from the HEADWATERS RMP





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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LEWISTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE  
Airport Road  
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1300

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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1985

Dear Reader:

This document summarizes the Rangeland Management Plan for the Great Falls Resource Area as presented in the recently completed Headwaters Resource Management Plan. This publication is supplementary to the Record of Decision prepared for the entire Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The benefits to be derived from the implementation of this program are within the concept of multiple use, maintaining a viable livestock industry and ensuring benefits for wildlife, and related resources as they exist on the public rangelands.

This document explains the process for implementation of the livestock grazing management program and the opportunities for additional public involvement. Periodic updates to this document will summarize actions taken and progress toward achieving planning objectives.

I appreciate the support and assistance given to the resource area from various groups, individuals, and local governments who have a vital interest in the management of these public lands.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn W. Freeman  
District Manager

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
BACKGROUND .....	1
THE PROGRAM .....	2
A.    What It Is .....	2
Grazing Management .....	2
Range Development .....	5
Cultural Resources .....	5
Monitoring .....	5
B.    Results Expected From the Program .....	7
Range Condition .....	7
Livestock Forage .....	8
Watershed Condition .....	9
Wildlife Habitat .....	9
Social and Economic Conditions .....	9
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT .....	10
Administrative Actions .....	11
Consultation .....	11
Adjustments in Authorized Livestock Use .....	11
Range Improvements and Appropriations .....	11
Periodic Progress Reports .....	11
APPENDIX .....	13





# INTRODUCTION

The Headwaters Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the subsequent Record of Decision (ROD) published in July 1984, established overall management direction for the Headwaters Resource Area and portions of the Great Falls Resource Area (GFRA). One segment of that management direction is the livestock grazing management program for the two resource areas. This Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) is for the Great Falls Resource Area. It briefly describes the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) program for managing livestock grazing as it relates to and/or affects vegetation, wildlife use and habitat, watershed and soil conditions, cultural resources and other resources or land uses.

## BACKGROUND

At the time of plan preparation, the Headwaters RMP/EIS consisted of 311,337 surface acres of public land in nine counties in west central Montana: Broadwater, Cascade, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Park, Pondera and Teton. In April of 1983, the merger of BLM and the Minerals Management Service onshore activities resulted in administrative boundary changes in Montana that affected the Headwaters Resource Area of the Butte District. Public lands in Teton, Pondera, Cascade, Meagher and the north half of Lewis and Clark counties were placed under administration of the Great Falls Resource Area of the Lewistown District. Public lands in Glacier, Toole and Liberty Counties were also transferred to the Great Falls Resource Area from the Havre Resource Area. However, public lands in these three counties have been discussed under the Missouri Breaks and Prairie Potholes Rangeland Program Update (July 1983). Therefore, the area covered by this RPS includes the following:

Acres of public land	—	61,894
Counties involved	—	Teton Pondera Cascade Lewis and Clark (N½) Meagher
Grazing allotments	—	99
Number of lessees	—	92

The existing public land range condition percentages for the area covered by this plan are:

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unclassified
6%	25%	13%	1%	55%
Unclassified refers to areas that cannot be classified into a range condition because they are 50% or more coniferous canopy coverage, rock scree, talus slopes, etc.				

Deer (mule and white-tailed), pronghorn antelope, elk and bighorn sheep are the primary big game species in this resource area (RA) along with smaller numbers of mountain goat and moose. Public lands along the Rocky Mountain Front are essential to the survival of the threatened grizzly bear and to the future recovery of the endangered gray wolf.

Upland game bird species include ruffed grouse, blue grouse, Franklins spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Hungarian partridge, ring-necked pheasant and Merriams turkey.

The GFRA manages 35.80 miles of riparian habitat in the five county area. The current condition of this habitat is 87% (31.05 miles) satisfactory and 13% (4.75 miles) unsatisfactory.



# THE PROGRAM

## A. WHAT IT IS

The Rangeland Management Program to be implemented is the Preferred Alternative (Alternative A) of the Headwaters RMP/EIS selected in the Record of Decision.

### GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Allotments with significant resource use conflicts or opportunities which were deemed manageable, have been earmarked for improvement. Under the selective management process, these are the Improve (I) category allotments. Maintain (M) category allotments will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions. Custodial (C) category allotments will receive custodial management to protect existing resource values.

The number of allotments by category are shown below:

Maintain (M)	32
Improve (I)	13
Custodial (C)	<u>54</u>
Total Allotments	99

The Great Falls Resource Area portion of the Headwaters Resource Management Plan has 92 livestock operators licensed for 6,608 animal unit months (AUMs) on 99 allotments. Of these AUMs 6,157 are in active-use status and 393 are in a non-use status. An additional 64 parcels (only 7% of AUMs) remain unleased for grazing because they are unsuitable for livestock grazing. Livestock use levels in the majority of all allotment categories (M-Maintain, C-Custodial, I-Improve) will be maintained at current levels. Only 6 Category I allotments out of 13 are recommended for short-term downward livestock use adjustments in AUMs (see Appendix A and B). Appendix A is a summary of the rangeland implementation program for the 13 Category I allotments. Appendix B summarizes the current authorized livestock use for all the allotments in this RPS.

Adjustments in livestock use levels were developed from operator experience, range condition ratings and the Soil Conservation Service's *Montana Grazing Guides* (USDA, SCS n.d.). Adjustments will be implemented only through documented mutual agreement or by a written grazing decision from the Area Manager, following a period of monitoring to confirm the estimated grazing capacities.

The current authorized grazing use and planned adjustments through the implementation period are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below:

**TABLE 1**  
**CHANGES IN GRAZING PREFERENCE**  
**ALTERNATIVE A**

	Total AUMs	Net Change from Current Use	
		AUMs	Percent
Current Authorized Use	6,608		
Short-Term Adjustment	5,934	-674	-10.2
Long-Term Adjustment (15+ years)	6,584	-24	-0.4



**TABLE 2**  
**ALLOTMENTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN STOCKING RATE**  
**(FROM APPENDIX ITEMS A & B)**

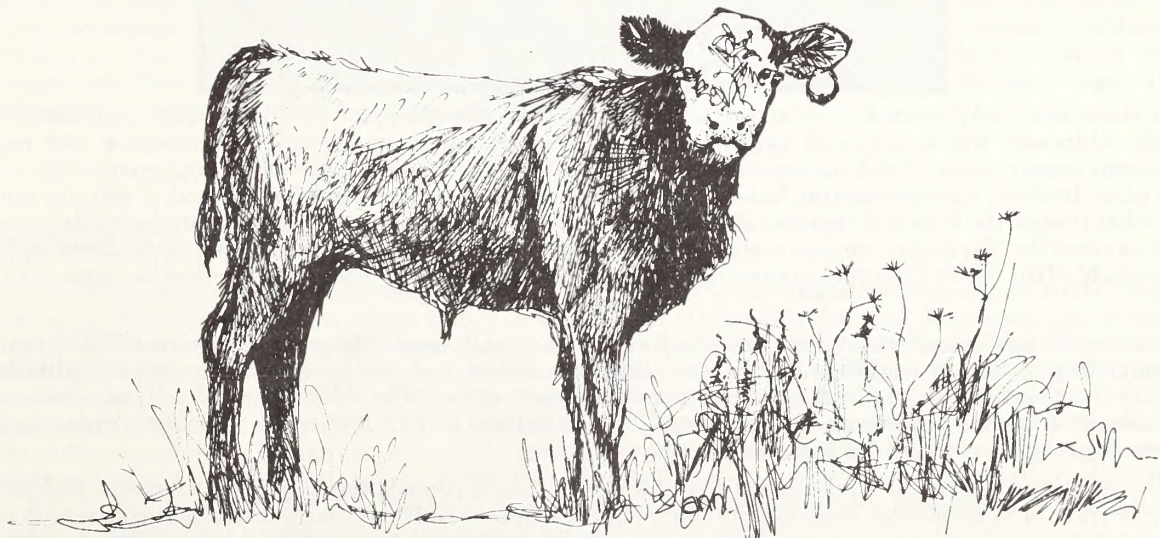
Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Current Authorized Use (AUMs)	Proposed Stocking Rate (AUMs)	Net Change (AUMs)	%
6307	East Front	542	442	-100	-18
6308	Green Timber Gulch	190	45	-145	-76
6312	Tunnel Lake	177	110	-67	-38
7609	Black Reef	360	180	-180	-50
9698	Smith Creek	78	50	-28	-36
9743	Johnston	275	121	-154	-56
Total Short-Term AUM Adjustment				-674 *	

\*Of these 674 AUMs, 560 are in a non-use status, leaving an active use adjustment of 114 AUMs.

Future adjustments and other allotment changes, such as a change in categorization, will be announced in a Rangeland Program Summary Update. If changes in AUM levels are proposed, a public review period will be provided prior to implementation. Methodology for determining future livestock use adjustments will be similar to the methods described above. A systematic monitoring schedule will be implemented to verify the need for the proposed livestock adjustments. Consultation with the operator is required to reach agreement on necessary adjustments in use levels or management and hopefully to eliminate the need for implementation by decision.

Thirteen Category I allotments are assigned priority ranking for Allotment Management Plans and range improvement inventories based upon resource needs, resource potential and investment analyses. Activity plans will be developed for those allotments that have the greatest potential for an increase in recreation, livestock forage, wildlife habitat improvement and watershed condition.

Because of resource conflicts that recently surfaced, we propose moving the Green Timber Gulch Allotment from Category M to Category I (see Table 3). The Little Elk Creek Allotment will also be moved from Category I to C. This is because recent monitoring has shown resource conditions to be good and resource conflicts aren't as significant as previously believed.





The following table is a summary of the Category I allotment ranking for implementation and investment:

**TABLE 3**  
**SUMMARY OF CATEGORY I ALLOTMENT PRIORITIES**  
**FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND INVESTMENT**

A		B		C	
Chicken Coulee*	6303	Divide Creek	9660	Little Elk Creek**	9708
Tunnel Lake*	6312	Black Reef	7609	Willow Creek	7612
Alkali Flat	7613	Johnston	9743	Smith Creek	9698
East Front	6307	Green Timber***	6308	Eagle Creek	9672
Pothole	7610			Hound Creek	9747

\* Existing implemented Allotment Management Plans.

\*\* This allotment is to be removed from Category I.

\*\*\* This allotment is to be moved from M to I category.

Group A—These allotments have a benefit/cost ratio of at least 1:1, and the improvement needed is a high priority from a natural resources viewpoint.

Group B—These allotments have either a benefit/cost ratio of at least 1:1, or a high priority from a natural resources viewpoint, but not both.

Group C—These allotments have a benefit/cost ratio of less than 1:1, and a lower priority from a natural resources viewpoint.

Other factors that the Area Manager may use to rank Category I allotments are 1) the percent of reduction or increase in AUMs recommended in the final RMP; 2) the livestock operator's dependency on the public land for grazing; 3) public interest or controversy; 4) coordination with other land management agencies' plans; and 5) the need for further funding to fully implement an existing AMP.

Here is a summary of the allotment status:

Existing AMPs	2
Additional AMPs Planned	11
Non AMP Allotments	<u>86</u>
Total Allotments	99

Activity plans were not prepared prior to writing the RMP/EIS. Therefore, the environmental analysis in that document addressed the anticipated aggregate effect of changing livestock use authorization and range improvement construction. It did not assess site specific effects that would result from implementation of an activity plan. Instead, Environmental Assessments (EAs) will be prepared prior to approval of activity plans. Among other things, the EAs will examine alternative actions, assess impacts and mitigate undesirable impacts as much as possible. The most common management actions used to correct livestock grazing problems appear in Appendix M of the RMP. The types of grazing systems that are commonly used are described in Appendix G of the RMP.

The resource area's future efforts in developing activity plans or Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), investing in range improvements needed to place those plans into action, and monitoring the change brought about will concentrate on the group of allotments targeted for improvement. The RMP (Appendix E) provides management objectives for all allotments in Category I. These objectives will guide resource specialists in developing the livestock grazing prescriptions found in the activity plan.

Appendix A of this document summarizes the changes in use authorizations, grazing systems and range improvements to be implemented from 1984 to 1995. This schedule of AMP implementation is tentative and may need revision or additional range improvements, etc., after further consultation with the livestock operators.



## RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Consistent with BLM policy, first priority for rangeland improvements will be given to Category I allotments. Range improvements in the Category M and C allotments will be of lower priority, except where operator contributions are made that contribute to better management or improved range conditions.

Allotments scheduled for grazing systems through an approved activity plan will be given preference for range and livestock developments.

The following range improvements will be needed to implement 13 allotment management plans at a cost of about \$38,225.00.

Fence	9.5 miles
Land treatments (including controlled burning and chemical)	300 acres
Spring developments	2 each
Water pipeline	2 miles
Stock tanks	5 each

These figures are estimated and subject to change (see Appendix A)

Any range improvement projects in the designated Outstanding Natural Areas (ONA) on the Rocky Mountain Front will be done in accordance with the "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review." These lands were studied for wilderness under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and although the BLM has designated them Outstanding Natural Areas, they are still subject to the Interim Management Policy. These lands will be subject to this policy until settlement of a lawsuit that was filed before they were designated as ONAs.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

The BLM recognizes that some actions in the Rangeland Management Program could affect historical and archaeological properties. Therefore, prior to approval of range improvement projects, BLM will conduct intensive field inventories (Class III) of these specific areas. If cultural resources are found, proposed range improvements will be relocated to avoid these sites. However, where this is not possible, BLM will consult with the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer and, if necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in accordance with appropriate Federal laws and regulations.

## MONITORING

A rangeland monitoring and evaluation plan has been prepared for the resource area and is available for public review at the Great Falls Resource Area Office. A schedule that specifies the type, frequency and intensity of studies by allotment will be set up at a later date. The monitoring plan is in greater detail than the general plan shown in Table 4. The summary monitoring plan shown in Table 4 displays the types of techniques that might be used and the purpose for that technique. Category I allotments and existing AMPs that have resource conflicts or need substantial improvement will be closely monitored. Future grazing use adjustments will be based on the results of this monitoring. Range condition data gathered from 1979 through 1982 will be updated on a continuing basis as required by Section 4(a) of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act and Section 201(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Soil moisture studies being conducted on benchmark soil sites will be continued to gather data on vegetative changes in response to climate.



**TABLE 4**  
**SUMMARY OF THE MONITORING PLAN**

Monitoring Activity	Allotment Category			Purpose
	M	I	C	
A. Vegetation & Wildlife				
1. Actual Use	X	X	X*	Evaluate stocking levels & use patterns
2. Utilization	X	X	X	Evaluate stocking levels & use patterns
3. Climate	X	X	X	Evaluate the effects climatic factors have on vegetative communities and yearly variation in production.
4. Trend Studies**				Determine the effectiveness of on-the-ground management toward meeting management objectives.
a. Canopy Coverage Method (Daubenmire)	X	X	X	Detect changes in composition, density & crown cover in vegetative communities
b. Vegetation Profile Board (Riparian Areas)	X	X		Detect changes in height
c. Low Level Aerial Photography	X	X	X	Usually used for riparian areas. Detect changes in vegetative community and soil/bank stability.
d. 3-Foot x 3-Foot Plots	X***			Primarily used to measure the parameter of density and frequency. Detect changes in vegetative communities.
e. Photo Evidence	X	X	X	Detect evidence of changes
B. Allotment Inspection/Supervision	X	X	X	Record livestock use patterns, distribution, etc. Verify accuracy of actual use data, ensure compliance with use authorizations.
C. Wildlife Studies				
1. Fisheries				
2. Nongame				Complete transect when doing other vegetative studies.
3. Game				Census data from the Montana Department of FW&P.
D. Watershed				
1. Soil Movement Loss		X		
2. Available Soil Moisture		X		
3. Sediment Yield		X		
4. Water Quality		X		
E. Livestock Production	X	X		Evaluate effectiveness in meeting Producers objectives.

\*Actual use will be done only on those category C allotments that have an implemented AMP and monitoring schedule.

\*\* A minimum of one trend method will be used per AMP implemented.

\*\*\* Only if found to be suitably located.



## B. RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE PROGRAM

The Rangeland Management Program enables BLM to meet the agency mission and multiple-use mandates dictated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA 1976), the Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PRIA 1978) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 1969).

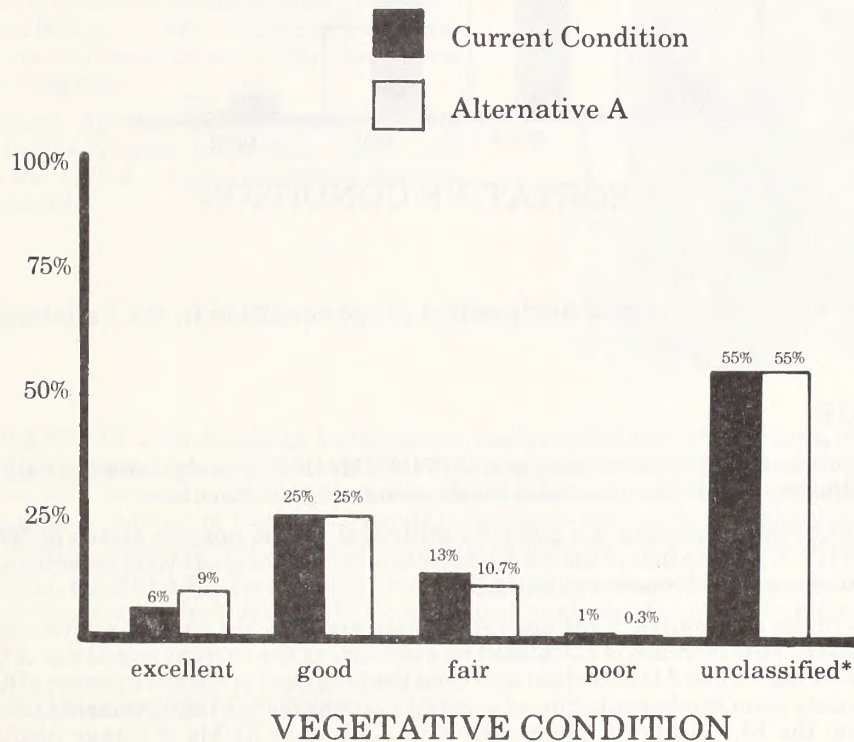
The environmental consequences section of the Headwaters RMP/EIS lists the impacts of implementing the preferred alternative and the procedures used to predict them. The following can be expected from the proposed action.

### RANGE CONDITION

In the long term (15+ years), Category I allotments will remain stable and allotments in poor to fair range conditions will improve under intensive livestock management. The potential to improve some vegetative communities does not exist, especially if they are currently in excellent condition.

There are 61,894 total public domain acres in the Great Falls Resource Area portion of the Headwaters RMP/EIS. Figure 1 shows the existing situation and the predictable changes for the entire resource area if all 13 Category I allotment management plans are implemented.

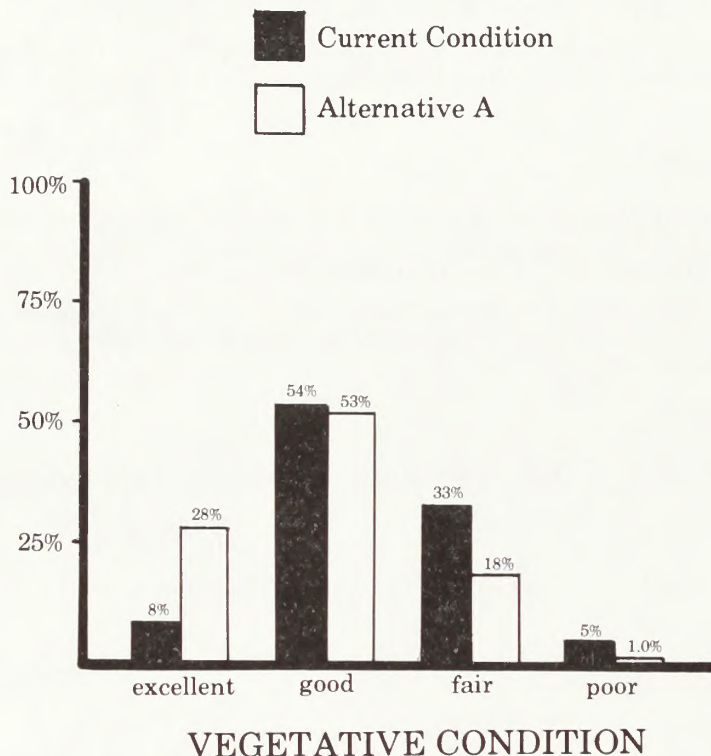
FIGURE 1. PLANNED LONG-TERM CHANGES IN VEGETATIVE CONDITIONS



Since category I allotments represent only 15.5% of the acreage that has a classified range condition, the overall range condition improvement effect is slight.

\*Unclassified refers to areas that are not capable of being classified into a range condition; e.g., 50% or more coniferous canopy coverage, rock scree, talus slopes, etc.

**FIGURE 2. PLANNED LONG-TERM CHANGES IN VEGETATIVE CONDITIONS FOR I ALLOTMENTS**



There are 7,323 acres of unclassified range condition in the I allotments.

## LIVESTOCK FORAGE

The preferred alternative proposes a short-term reduction of 674 AUMs (10.2%) in six Category I allotments (see Table 1). No short-term adjustments are recommended for the remaining allotments.

The short-term impacts on livestock grazing are partially mitigated by the non-use status of 560 AUMs on licenses issued by the BLM (1979-1984) to four of the six allotments proposed for short-term reductions. Therefore, the net reduction from actual use would amount to 114 AUMs.

After full implementation of the alternative, a net upward adjustment from the current active use of approximately 536 AUMs is predicted. This increase is calculated by subtracting the current actual use of 6,048 AUMs (6,608 AUMs - 560 AUMs non-use = 6,048 AUMs actual use) from the long term projected increase of 6,584 AUMs. These figures are derived only from implementation of grazing systems (range improvements, season adjustments, land treatments) on the 13 Category I allotments. Any additional AUMs of forage produced will be allocated on a case-by-case basis to livestock, wildlife, watershed or other resources. There may be additional livestock forage produced on lower priority Category M and C allotments where the potential for improvement and intensive livestock management exists.

Noxious weed control, proposed on 200 acres, would benefit livestock forage production and, in some cases, reduce death losses and sickness in domestic animals. Additional forage may be produced from timber harvest, prescribed burning and firewood cutting areas but would not have a significant long-term effect on the AUMs available to livestock.

Seeding and interseeding of native and introduced plants are proposed on 200 acres of chemically treated, knapweed-infested land and may have potential for more than 2,000 acres of similar lands within the Great Falls Resource Area.



## WATERSHED CONDITION

There will be approximately a 400-acre decrease in unsatisfactory watershed conditions from the current situation based on improvements in allotment management.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

**RIPARIAN HABITAT**—Riparian habitat quality will improve from 62% satisfactory to 86% satisfactory for Category I allotments over the long term. This represents an increase from 5.25 miles to 7.25 miles of satisfactory riparian habitat. A large percentage of the riparian habitat in the resource area is in either Category M or C allotments or unleased areas. This represents 27.4 miles or 76.5% of the habitat in the resource area. All of this habitat is in satisfactory condition and is not expected to change over the long term. The improvement in riparian condition for the Category I allotments will be the result of such things as reduced stocking rates, livestock grazing systems designed with riparian habitat improvement objectives, season-of-use changes, class-of-stock changes and, in some instances, fencing to exclude livestock grazing.

Emphasis on riparian habitat improvement in the Great Falls Resource Area will be to implement programs which improve grizzly bear habitats along the East Front of the Rocky Mountains. Riparian habitats along the front have a vital role in the continued existence of the grizzly bear and are especially critical during the spring and early summer seasons. Yearlong grizzly habitats are anticipated to improve from 60% satisfactory to 90% satisfactory over the long term from implementation of the Rangeland Management Program.

Other important riparian improvements will be undertaken in the Tunnel Lake/Split Rock Lake complex, of the GFRA, where waterfowl developments are planned.



**AQUATIC HABITAT**—On Category I allotments, the livestock use adjustments, seasonal changes in livestock use and limited fencing along streams will result in a positive change in aquatic habitat. The satisfactory aquatic habitat will increase to 38.90 miles, while the unsatisfactory condition will decrease to 3.15 miles. The quality of the aquatic habitat in Category M and C allotments will increase slightly and provide more satisfactory aquatic habitat. Improvement would be from 62% satisfactory to 87% satisfactory.

**TERRESTRIAL HABITAT**—Terrestrial habitat would improve to varying degrees depending on the seasonal habitat in question (see the final RMP/EIS for a detailed analysis of changes in habitat condition).

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The impact from the short-term reduction in livestock AUMs is minimal to the overall agricultural ranch community. The fact that only two operations are affected by an actual reduction means that there is only a slight social and economic impact. Other factors in combination with an AUM reduction on public land, such as high production costs, range drought and lack of agricultural diversity, often create economic hardships. The short-term AUM reduction is an adverse factor that adds to the complexity of economic survival facing the impacted livestock ranchers.

The long-term impact to the economy from this proposed alternative is an increase in forage (536 AUMs) and range betterment because of development of additional livestock watering sources and fencing to aid in better livestock distribution.



# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During development of the Headwaters Resource Management Plan, consultation and coordination with agencies, organizations and individuals occurred in a variety of ways throughout the land use planning process, starting with the preliminary; identification of planning issues in April 1979. Formal opportunities for public involvement were provided at all mandatory planning steps. Such opportunities were structured through meetings, hearings or special publications and mailings. Other informal opportunities for public involvement were available throughout the planning process and occurred primarily by means of letters, personal contacts and telephone calls. Public involvement throughout the RMP process stressed the need to address grazing allotment management as a planning issue.

All public land users and other interested groups and individuals were notified through mailings and news releases of the initiation of planning activities. A Federal Register notice was published on March 18, 1980, that announced the formal start of the planning process. A letter was sent to range users in June 1980 to announce that a vegetative inventory would be conducted that summer and that the data would be used in the RMP. Four meetings were held during July in Townsend, Helena, Choteau and Whitehall to explain the inventory process and how it would be used.

In early 1981, 32 grazing permittees were interviewed to determine conditions, problems and opportunities for improvement on key grazing allotments in the area. The results of these interviews were used to help formulate RMP alternatives and also to assess environmental consequences of the proposed RMP and alternatives.

## PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE RMP/EIS

The Draft RMP/EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on May 6, 1983. The Notice of Availability and Announcement of Public Hearings were published in the *Federal Register* on May 6, 1983. The notice announced a 90-day public comment period ending August 5, 1983. Over 1,100 copies of the Draft RMP/EIS were mailed to federal, state and local government agencies, elected officials, businesses, organizations and individuals. Copies were sent to all livestock operators with grazing privileges in the area. News releases contained information on the Draft RMP/EIS and the times and locations of public meetings. Eighty-nine comment letters were received.



A formal public hearing was held in Helena on June 15, 1983. A court recorder transcribed the hearing verbatim and five people gave testimony. The testimony is on file in the Headwaters Resource Area office.

A coordination meeting with the Governor's Natural Resource Council was held on September 8, 1983. Previous to the meeting, the BLM conducted a tour for the Council members along the Rocky Mountain Front on July 22, 1983.

All comments received were carefully considered in the development of the Final RMP/EIS which was issued in November 1983. Detailed responses were made to all comments that related to inadequacies or inaccuracies in the analysis or methodologies used, identified new significant impacts, recommended reasonable new alternatives, involved disagreements on interpretations of significance, or indicated significant misconceptions or misinterpretations of BLM programs and policies.

These responses are included in Chapter 7 of the Final RMP/EIS document.



# IMPLEMENTATION

## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

This document serves to notify the public of the Rangeland Management Program and is a decision document expanding on the Record of Decision for the RMP/EIS. It specifies no immediate change in authorized livestock grazing use on most allotments. It is a notification of changes in grazing preference or use proposed for six allotments.

## CONSULTATION

Consultation with affected permittees, state government and interested parties began in 1984 on Category I allotments. Individuals or groups interested in the consultation process during the implementation phase, should immediately notify the Lewistown District Manager or the Great Falls Area Manager of the allotments in which they would like to be involved.

## ADJUSTMENTS IN AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK USE

Where adjustments in livestock use are indicated, an attempt will be made to obtain an agreement on the initial stocking rate with the livestock operator. If no written agreement can be reached and data to support the initial adjustment is available, a decision will be issued within 30 days implementing all or a portion of the individual change. All adjustments will be completed within 5 years, with subsequent adjustment made in the third and fifth years of this adjustment period if monitoring data indicating these adjustments are still required.

If data to support the initial adjustment is not available and no agreement is reached, monitoring will be necessary to gather data to support the change. No more than 5 years of monitoring will occur before reaching a decision. This decision will initiate the five-year implementation period as indicated above.

Monitoring will continue to determine the effectiveness of management actions in meeting long-term objectives, including those related to stocking levels.

This document will serve to notify all interested parties of the grazing preference of all the livestock operators in this planning area. In addition, each case file will be documented by letter with the authorized grazing use indicated.



## RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

The proposed range improvements explained previously will be completed as funds are appropriated. With the anticipated overall reduction in government funds and staff, the implementation period (1985-1995) will probably be extended. The only current source of public funds for range improvements is one-half the grazing fees returned for this purpose (currently about \$5,000 annually). Contributions by range users will be encouraged and will assist in implementation of the plan.

## PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS

As this Rangeland Management Program is implemented, a record of progress will be maintained and the specific program details will be described in a periodic update of this RPS. The update will provide a summary of progress in meeting management objectives, including the results of monitoring, implementation of range improvements and proposed changes in grazing management. Updates will be issued as needed.

A tentative implementation schedule is shown in Appendix A.





**APPENDIX A**  
**RANGELAND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

Allotment			Implementation Schedule		Authorized Livestock Use (Active Use) AUMs	Short-Term Initial Forage Allocation	Proposed Grazing System	Development Planned		Investment Analysis	
			Year	Rank				Units	Type	Cost of Improvement	B/C
*Chicken Coulee	6303	I	1974	1	279	279	RR	2 ea. Spring developments 4 ea. Stock tanks 1.25 mi. Pipeline		\$6,700 1,200 4,375	1.4
*Tunnel Lake	6312	I	1984	2	177	110	DR	1.75 mi. Fence		3,500	1.1
Johnston	9743	I	1985	3	275	121	DR	0.75 mi. Pipeline 1.00 ea. Stock tank 0.75 mi. Fence		2,700 300 1,800	0.6
Alkali Flat	7613	I	1986	4	103	103	DR	50.00 ac. Chemical treatment locoweed control		950	1.4
East Front	6307	I	1987	5	542	442	RR	4.00 mi. Fence		8,000	2.3
Divide Creek	9660	I	1988	6	300	300	DR	100.00 ac. Land treatment burn			5.2
Pothole	7610	I	1989	7	112	112	DR	0.50 mi. Fence		4,000	2.1
Black Reef	7609	I	1990	8	360	180	DR	2.00 mi. Fence		1,100	0.6
Willow Creek Canal	7612	I	1991	9	125	125	DR	150.00 ac. Chemical treatment locoweed control		2,600	0.6
Green Timber Gulch	6308	I	1992	10	190	45	DR	0.50 mi. Fence		1,000	1.2
Eagle Creek	9672	I	1993	11	57	57	DR	None	None	None	None
Smith River	9698	I	1994	12	78	50	DR	None	None	None	None
Hound Creek	9747	I	1995	13	35	35	DR	None	None	None	None

\* Existing AMP, both receive first priority for range improvement project allocations in order to complete AMP implementation.





**APPENDIX B**  
**SUMMARY OF CURRENT AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK USE**

ALLOT. NO.	ALLOTMENT NAME	MGT. STATUS	OPERATOR NAME	LIVE- STOCK NO.	CLASS	SEASON OF USE	CURRENT AUMs (PUBLIC LAND) BY ALLOT.		PRESENT RECOMMENDED STOCKING RATE
							PASTURE	TOTAL	
0427	T. 8 N., R. 5 E.	C	Louise Galt	2	Cattle	06/01-12/31	19	19	19
0428	T. 13 N., R. 2, E.	C	Louise Galt	7	Cattle	07/01-11/30	37	37	37
0429	T. 10 N., R. 1 E.	C	Louise Galt	11	Cattle	06/01-12/31	79	79	79
6303	Chicken Coulee	I	Everett Newman	232	Cattle	07/01-09/15	279	279	279
6304	Chouteau Mountain	M	James Peebles	1	Cattle	03/28-02/28	12	12	12
6306	Cowtrack	M	Charles Bixrud	9	Horses	09/01-11/30	26		
				10	Horses	06/01-06/30	10	36	36
6307*	East Front	I	John C. Salmond	136	Cattle	06/15-10/15	542	542	442
6308*	Green Timber Gulch	I	James Boadle	1	Cattle	03/01-02/28	10		
				60	Cattle	06/01-08/31	180	190	45
6312*	Tunnel Lake	I	George Hodgkiss	139	Cattle	06/01-07/03	177	177	110
6313	Black Coulee	C	Meadows Ranch, Inc.	3	Cattle	06/01-09/30	14	14	14
6315	Reservoir	M	Fairfield Cattlemen	6	Cattle	06/15-10/15	53	53	53
6316	E. Farmers Res.	C	Leonard L. Blixrud	3	Cattle	08/15-01/15	13	13	13
6317	Freezeout West	M	C.R. Harris	8	Cattle	04/01-07/31	30	30	30
6318	Anderson Coulee	C	Patricia H. McGillis	6	Cattle	06/01-08/31	19	19	19
6319	Roundup Coulee	M	Larry Semenza	4	Cattle	03/01-02/28	49	49	49
6320	Waddell Lakes	C	William H. Jones	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	25	25	25
6321	Swift Dam	C	Jael M. Murray	1	Cattle	05/15-12/14	9	9	9
6322	E. Birch Creek	C	Paula Eilander	9	Cattle	03/01-02/28	102	102	102
6323	W. Birch Creek	C	Melvin J. Larance	1	Horse	03/01-02/28	11	11	11
6324	Homesite	C	Joseph Salois	1	Cattle	03/01-02/28	9	9	9
6326	S. Canal Ditch	C	Gaylord R. Gilbert	2	Cattle	06/01-10/31	13	13	13
6327	Sun River Ditch	C	Richard Gondeiro	4	Cattle	04/01-11/30	30	30	30
6328	Simms Creek	C	Clarence J. Bloom	15	Cattle	03/01-04/15	22		
				15	Cattle	12/15-02/28	37	59	59
6329	Blackfeet Gulch	C	William Neumeyer	2	Cattle	05/01-10/31	14	14	14
6330	Ryan Coulee	C	Gruel & Son, Inc.	20	Cattle	11/01-01/12	51	51	51
6331	Lower Flat Creek	C	Roy G. Levine	90	Cattle	06/01-09/30	62	62	62
6332	Big Eddy	C	Gene Chieslar	3	Cattle	09/01-02/28	17	17	17
6334	Hardy Creek	M	Benjamin W. Brown	10	Cattle	06/01-10/31	51		
						06/01-10/31	56	107	107
6336	Hardy	C	William C. Shortridge	11	Cattle	05/01-09/30	54	54	54
6337	Tinfinger Slough	C	William B. Ellis	1	Cattle	05/15-10/15	3	3	3
6338	Upper Flat Creek	C	Michael D. Curran	1	Cattle	03/01-11/30	6	6	6
7602	Rogers Creek	M	Everett H. Hicks	3	Cattle	06/15-10/15	11	11	11
7603	Middle Fork Dearborn	M	Steinbach Cattle Co.	17	Cattle	06/15-09/15	50	50	50
7604	Rock Creek	C	Frank Thompson	6	Cattle	06/15-10/15	25	25	25
7605	Bean Lake	M	Soap Creek Cattle Co.	49	Cattle	07/16-09/15	123	123	123
7606	Dearborn River	M	Warren Barrett	4	Cattle	05/15-10/30	21	21	21
7607	Roost Hill	M	Cobb, A.B.	1	Cattle	06/01-09/01	1	1	1
7608	Willow Creek	C	Troy Maitland	1	Cattle	07/01-10/15	4	4	4
7609*	Black Reef	I	Gelsinger Ranch	400	Cattle	06/01-09/30	360	360	180
7610	Pothole	I	Mike C. Morris	3	Cattle	05/01-10/31	22		
				10	Cattle	06/01-10/31	50		
				10	Cattle	05/15-07/14	20		
				20	Cattle	08/01-08/31	20	112	112
7612	Willow Creek Canal	I	Lima A. Neal	60	Cattle	06/01-10/31	125	125	125
7613	Alkali Flat	I	K-Bar-L Ranch	10	Horses	03/01-06/15	38		
				11	Horses	12/01-02/28	35		
				28	Horses	03/01-02/28	30	103	103
7614	Florence Canal	C	Wearly Ranch, Inc.	3	Cattle	06/01-10/31	16	16	16
7659	Indian Head Rock	C	Allen Haas	2	Horses	07/01-08/31	4	4	4
7671	Andy Creek	M	Albert Lawson	7	Cattle	05/01-10/31	44	44	44
7701	Cox Creek	C	John D. Buchanan	10	Cattle	06/01-09/30	40	40	40
7702	Stickney Creek	C	Donald Pollack	2	Cattle	05/01-10/31	9	9	9
7716	Cottonwood Creek	C	Voegesels, Inc.	87	Cattle	06/15-10/14	45	45	45
7762	Toms Gulch	M	Randal & Jeffrey Gray	2	Horses	05/01-11/30	19	19	19
7775	Willow Creek	M	Gerald Murphy	20	Cattle	07/02-08/10	14	14	14
7825	Dog Creek	C	Sieben L&L	1	Cattle	06/01-09/30	70	70	70
7829	Colorado Gulch	C	Sieben L&L	1	Cattle	06/01-09/30	35	35	35
7831	Ford Coulee	C	Hidden Valley Ranch	220	Cattle	06/01-08/31	40	40	40
7832	Tiger Butte	C	Matt Antonich	65	Cattle	07/01-09/30	20	20	20
9655	South Fork Sheep Cr.	M	Anderson Ranch Co.	10	Cattle	06/01-08/31	29		
				2	Cattle	06/01-08/31	6	35	35
9660	Divide Creek	I	The Bair Co.	55	Cattle	05/15-10/31	300	300	300
9663	Coyote Creek	M	Berg Ranch Co.	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	27	27	27
9671	Gibsy Creek	C	Fred L. Buckingham	16	Cattle	07/01-10/20	59	59	59
9672	Eagle Creek	I	Wayne D. Buckingham	16	Cattle	06/01-09/15	57	57	57



## APPENDIX B (Cont'd)

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK USE

ALLOT. NO.	ALLOTMENT NAME	MGT. STATUS	OPERATOR NAME	LIVE- STOCK NO.	CLASS	SEASON OF USE	CURRENT AUMs (PUBLIC LAND)		PRESENT RECOMMENDED STOCKING RATE
							BY PASTURE	ALLOT. TOTAL	
9674	North Fork Musselshell	M	Bruce M. Cady	8	Cattle	03/01-02/28	157	157	157
9675	Daisy Dean Creek	C	Dale A. Cameron	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	28	28	28
9688	Crooked Creek	C	Dana Ranch Co.	4	Cattle	06/01-10/31	19	19	19
9690	Sixteen	C	Darrel D. Davis	18	Cattle	07/10-10/09	54	54	54
9697	W. Fk. Mud Creek	M	Harley Wildman	5	Cattle	03/01-02/28	60	60	60
9698*	Smith Creek	I	David L. Dunkel	6	Cattle	03/01-02/28	78	78	50
9699	So. Fork Smith	M	Ralph & Helen Dupea	18	Cattle	04/15-05/14	18	18	18
9704	Middle Fork	M	Elk Ridge Livestock Co.	33	Cattle	06/01-09/30	131	131	131
9708	L. Ale Elk Creek	C	Mable Eyman	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	30	30	30
9709	Devil Canyon	C	E.G. Farm	4	Cattle	03/01-02/28	48	48	48
9710	Belt Creek	M	Porter Fender	7	Cattle	06/01-09/30	29	29	29
9715	Ming Coulee	C	James M. Gasvoda	7	Cattle	07/01-08/31	15	15	15
9722	Monarch	C	Walter H. Kortum	2	Cattle	05/20-10/20	10	10	10
9723	Black Butte	M	Gruel & Son, Inc.	43	Cattle	06/01-10/01	190	190	190
9726	North Fork Sheep Cr.	M	Gerald R. Harland	40	Cattle	06/01-09/30	158	158	158
9728	Deer Creek	C	Knute Hereim	9	Cattle	04/01-05/31	18	18	18
9732	Little Sulphur Creek	C	Holmstrom Land Co.	1	Cattle	03/01-02/28	16	16	16
9733	Martinsdale	C	Byron Berg	1	Cattle	05/01-11/30	6	6	6
9735	Holliday L&L	C	Holliday Land & Livestock	1	Cattle	03/01-02/28	13	13	13
9739	Cottonwood Cr.	M	Oakley R. Jackson	3	Cattle	05/01-11/15	19	19	19
9743*	Johnston	I	Walter L. Johnston	184	Cattle	05/01-06/15	275	275	121
9747	Hound	I	Arlen L. Kitson	7	Cattle	06/01-10/31	35	35	35
9758	Footstool Butte	M	Lazy BH Ranch Co.	12	Cattle	03/01-02/28	29		
				30	Cattle	05/15-05/31	15		
				32	Cattle	07/01-09/15	80	124	124
9780	West Fork Hound Cr.	C	Munroe Enterprises	4	Cattle	06/01-10/15	17	17	17
9800	Elk Creek	C	Roger Rader	7	Cattle	06/01-09/30	30	30	30
9801	Rhynard Inc.	C	W.E. Rhynard	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	24	24	24
9804	Sheep Creek	C	Riverside Ranch Co.	5	Cattle	06/01-08/31	16		
				18	Cattle	06/01-08/31	55	71	71
9806	Watertank Smith River	M	Jack Rothwell	12	Cattle	06/01-11/30	70	70	70
9807	Cottonwood-Galt	C	Louise Galt	8	Cattle	05/01-11/15	43	43	43
9810	71 Ind.	M	Louise Galt	8	Cattle	06/01-11/30	48	48	48
9812	Bird Creek	C	Salo Ranch Co.	11	Cattle	06/01-09/30	43	43	43
9814	Battle Creek	C	Fred Schafer	10	Cattle	04/15-10/31	67	67	67
9818	Windy Hollow	M	Sieben L&L	127	Cattle	06/01-10/15	570	570	570
9820	Sand Coulee	C	Victor A. Smerker	1	Cattle	05/01-10/15	3	3	3
9836	Lower Sand Coulee	M	William P. Thrasher	18	Cattle	06/15-09/15	55	55	55
9846	Bozeman Fork	C	Norman Voldseth	3	Cattle	03/01-02/28	35	35	35
9849	Black Canyon	M	Russell Weingartner	7	Cattle	06/01-10/31	35	35	35
9851	Morris Creek	C	Walter R. Whelan	2	Cattle	03/01-02/28	29	29	29
9857	Smith River	M	Hugo W. Schoelkopf	6	Cattle	03/01-02/28	32	32	32
9859	N. Lake Sutherlin	M	Roland Sahn	7	Cattle	09/01-10/31	15	15	15

\* "I" Allotments recommended for short-term downward livestock use adjustments.



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